

Regular Meeting of the Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks
Held at the Falls Church Community Center
223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22046

Minutes
May 9, 2007

1. Call to Order

Mr. Meeks called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Members present were Joyce Berg, Katherine Chandler, Rob Meeks, Charley O'Hara, Ruth Rodgers, and Lawrence Webb. Staff present was Howard Herman, Director of Recreation, Daniel Schlitt, Senior Program Supervisor, and Linda Weikle, Senior Administrative Assistant. Vice Mayor Lindy Hockenberry was also present.

2. Receipt of Public Petitions and Board Member Petitions

Mr. Meeks asked if there were any petitions from the public or board members. There were none.

3. Minutes

Mr. O'Hara moved to approve the April 7, 2007 minutes. Ms. Berg seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, the motion passed 2-0-3 (Mr. Meeks, Ms. Rodgers, and Mr. Webb abstained; Ms. Chandler was absent).

4. Recreation Director's Report

Mr. Herman reported:

- The summer Farmers' Market had a great opening with nice weather, entertainment at both ends of the market, and good attendance.
- The recital for the preschool students held at the end of April at the high school went very well; was very organized.
- The Memorial Day Parade will have less music than last year. It's been difficult to attract bands at that time of the year, even with payments and awards. The Grand Marshal will be John Gannon. Roger Neighborgall will be the keynote speaker for the veterans' ceremony. The band from the City schools will perform during the veterans' ceremony.
- Saturday, May 19, is a busy day: Civil War Day, Cystic Fibrosis Walk-a-thon, Property Yard Open House, and Farmers' Market.

- Recreation and schools staff are working together on field use and maintenance. Recreation staff is working with the schools to improve the maintenance of the artificial turf at the high school.

5. New Business

a. Adopted Budget

The City Council adopted its budget on April 23. The Recreation Division has two new positions: program supervisor (for classes) and maintenance worker (parks crew). The budget also includes funding to jointly develop a field with another jurisdiction, and to implement the master plans for Hamlett/Rees Park and West End Park. Mr. Herman thanked the Board members for their attendance at the budget meetings.

b. Staff Re-Organization

Mr. Herman told the Board that there would be some staff re-organization with the new budget. He will be General Manager of Community Services and Director of the Recreation and Parks Division, and Daniel Schlitt will be Deputy Director of Recreation and Parks Division. The current program supervisor who handles special events and classes will do special events, and another program supervisor will be promoted from staff to do classes. The new maintenance worker position will be added to the parks crew.

c. Big Chimneys Park Public Hearing

Mr. Meeks opened the public hearing. Citizens present were Doris Doran, 211 Gundry Dr., Bernadette Fancuberta, 243 Gundry Dr., Pam Callison, 215 Gundry Dr., George Bromley, 207 Gundry Dr., and Carl Anderson, 290 Gundry Dr. Ms. Fancuberta thanked Mr. Herman for incorporating the citizen's comments into the Conceptual Plan. Citizens discussed:

- that the City Center should not have a significant impact on the park;
- the company that did the sun survey said it was not done properly and should be done again;
- requested that the big trees behind the bowling alley not be removed and replace with small trees;
- concerns about City Center loading dock;
- an engineering study for grading/drainage issues;
- parking;
- requested seasonal plantings; and
- requested maintenance of the park in the short term.

Written comments were received from the following citizens.

Stephanie Powell, 227 Gundry Dr., likes the water fountain and performance stage proposed in the plan; requested more trash cans, benches, picnic tables, grills, tire swing, playsets for all ages of children, and an area fenced in for dogs.

Betty and Ethel Tiberg, 297 Gundry Dr., are pleased to see the effort to preserve the park, and think the fountain would be unnecessary in regards to the time, effort and cost required to maintain it, and it would be a safety issue for the children.

DeeAnn Batten, 377 W. Broad St., requested that the drainage be fixed; the berm at the north end of the park be removed; the log cabin outline be reinstalled or replaced with a shelter; the fence along west side of the park be repaired/replaced and include a gate; that grass be planted; more benches and grills be added; lighting be added for safety; prevent parking on Annandale Road; trees in the park be preserved; a buffer be maintained in the area of the bowling alley; restrict size of vehicles that travel on Annandale and Shirley St. extension; and no bus stops be placed adjacent to the park.

Barbara Conaty, 255 Gundry Dr., requested regarding near townhouses to address eroding slope and draining; buffer between park and homes; that the tavern footprint be removed; add a bike rack, picnic tables, benches, more trash cans/removal; better ground cover in playground area; adding a crosswalk on Annandale Road; light management for the plants; improved design for stairs; and residential storage control.

Mr. O'Hara moved to close the public hearing and Mr. Webb seconded the motion. Upon unanimous voice vote, the hearing was closed.

6. Old Business

a. Project Updates

Thomas Jefferson field will open May 14. The Community Center generator bids will go out May 10. Frady Park bids won't go out until late summer or early fall. Portable skateboard equipment will arrive soon.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Webb moved to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Berg seconded the motion. Following a unanimous voice vote, Mr. Meeks adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

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Adopted June 6, 2007